

CLAIMS:

1. A method of displaying a multi-level menu, comprising the steps of displaying menu items of a first menu level in a first display area, and displaying, in response to a selection of a menu item of the first menu level, menu items of a second menu level in a second display area, the second menu level being subordinate to the selected menu item of the first menu level, characterized in that the second display area has a fixed position with respect to the first display area, irrespective of the position of the selected menu item of the first menu level.

5 2. A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the method further
10 comprises a step of visually connecting the selected menu item of the first menu level and a menu item of the second menu level.

15 3. A method as defined in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the first and the second display area are oblong and arranged substantially orthogonally relative to each other.

4. A method as defined in claim 3, characterized in that the first and the second display area extend along adjacent borders of a third display area.

5. A method as defined in claim 4, characterized in that the multi-level menu
20 constitutes a database filter for selecting data objects in accordance with selected menu items, the method further comprising a step of displaying the selected objects in the third display area.

25 6. A method as defined in claim 5, characterized in that the data objects are programs in an electronic program guide database, and the menu items of the first menu level correspond to main genres of the programs, and the menu items of the second menu level correspond to subgenres of a selected main genre of the first menu level.

7. A display device comprising multi-level menu means for displaying menu items of a first menu level in a first display area, and displaying, in response to a selection of a menu item of the first menu level, menu items of a second menu level in a second display area, the second menu level being subordinate to the selected menu item of the first menu level, characterized in that the second display area has a fixed position with respect to the first display area, irrespective of the position of the selected menu item of the first menu level.

5 8. A display device as defined in claim 7, characterized in that the multi-level menu means are adapted to visually connect the selected menu item of the first menu level and a menu item of the second menu level.

10 9. A display device as defined in claim 8, characterized in that the first and the second display area are oblong and mutually arranged substantially orthogonally relative to each other.

15 10. A display device as defined in claim 9, characterized in that the first and the second display area are positioned along adjacent borders of a third display area.

20 11. A display device as defined in claim 10, characterized in that the display device further comprises database means for storing a plurality of data objects, and the multi-level menu constitutes a database filter for selecting data objects in accordance with selected menu items, the database means being adapted to display the selected objects in the third display area.

25 12. A television receiver as a display device as defined in claim 11, characterized in that the television receiver further comprises electronic program guide means, the data objects being programs in the electronic program guide, and the menu items of the first menu level correspond to main genres of the programs, and the menu items of the second menu level correspond to subgenres of a selected main genre of the first menu level.

30 13. A computer program product for performing, when executed on a programmable computing device, the steps of displaying menu items of a first menu level in a first display area, and displaying, in response to a selection of a menu item of the first menu

level, menu items of a second menu level in a second display area, the second menu level being subordinate to the selected menu item of the first menu level, characterized in that the second display area has a fixed position with respect to the first display area, irrespective of the position of the selected menu item of the first menu level.